



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: [redacted] Acting
Chairman DCI Security Committee

STAT

FROM: Louis C. Kachulis, Alternate
State Department Member

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JLC' or similar, written over the typed name 'Louis C. Kachulis'.

SUBJECT: DCID 1/14 Revision

The Department of State has, once again reviewed the recommendation of the Investigative Standards Working Group pertaining to the use of the polygraph as a prerequisite for access to sensitive compartmented intelligence information. As we have indicated in previous correspondence that while the value of the polygraph may be irrefutable in terms of a scientific measurement based on empirical data, there are psychological obstructions and, in fact, severe limitations in terms of personnel acceptance which would preclude the Department of State's use of polygraph screening as a means of determining reliability. Although polygraph results may play an important role in establishing an individual's complicity or innocence in criminal cases, its use is strictly voluntary. In non-criminal proceedings the mere suggestion of polygraph testing not only connotes the surrender of certain rights by the individual but also implies a level of mistrust.

While there may be a valid use for polygraph analysis in select instances involving confrontations such as cases with counterintelligence overtones, the proposed routine use of such technology by the Department would cause considerable controversy and subject the security screening process to intense criticism. Despite the overwhelming evidence and statistics which clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the polygraph, the unavoidable fact is that polygraphs are viewed as depersonalizing and an unreasonable means of examining the individual's character.

-2-

Finally, I assure you our delay in responding to the original request is not due to any lack of interest or concern for the Working Group's findings and recommendations. Our delay, rather, stems from our desire to fully air the use of the polygraph even in the limited fashion suggested. We must, as we have in the past, vote to exclude the routine use of the polygraph for access to sensitive compartmented intelligence information.

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Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

Among other things, I think
copies should go into the
Registry Polygraph file.
The Navy rep was a good
writer.

1-2 - FYI - pls see that copies are filed IAW note from DDPM
2-3 Please file as DD/PM requests.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
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